

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (currently amended). A planar electronic component, comprising:

a substrate layer and a covering layer;

a functional organic light-emitting layer with an optoelectronic configuration or a circuit configuration between said substrate layer and said covering layer;

a sealing frame or sealing ring between said substrate layer and said covering layer, connected to said substrate layer and said covering layer by an integral joint, and surrounding said functional organic light-emitting layer and protecting said functional organic light-emitting layer against hazardous external influences;

a mechanical connector with adhesive characteristics matched to materials of said covering layer and of said substrate, said mechanical connector being disposed between said substrate layer and said covering layer and for fixing said substrate layer and said covering layer in a mechanically

robust manner with respect to one another, said mechanical connector having connectors selected from the group consisting of reinforcing strips and points disposed between said substrate layer and said covering layer.

2 (original). The component according to claim 1, wherein said mechanical connector is configured and disposed to reduce a risk of detachment of said substrate layer and said covering layer from one another in an event of a deformation of the electronic component.

3 (original). The component according to claim 1, wherein said mechanical connector between said substrate layer and said covering layer is particularly configured to reduce a risk of partial or complete detachment due to one of thermal expansion and mechanical loading of the component.

4 (currently amended). The component according to claim 1, wherein said sealing frame or sealing ring between said substrate layer and said covering layer is particularly configured to seal and protect said functional organic light-emitting layer against an ingress of fluid.

5 (currently amended). The component according to claim 4, wherein said sealing frame or sealing ring protects said

functional organic light-emitting layer against oxygen and moisture.

6 (currently amended). The component according to claim 1, wherein said mechanical connector is disposed outside said sealing frame or sealing ring, as seen from said functional organic light-emitting layer.

7 (currently amended). The component according to claim 1, wherein said mechanical connector is one of a plurality of connectors disposed outside a space enclosed by said sealing frame or sealing ring and housing said functional organic light-emitting layer.

8 (original). The component according to claim 1, wherein said mechanical connector is disposed in an overlapping area of said substrate layer and said covering layer.

9 (original). The component according to claim 1, wherein said substrate layer and said covering layer are each formed as a quadrilateral in a plan view thereof, and said mechanical connector is one of a plurality of substantially punctiform connecting elements disposed at corners of an assembly defined by said substrate layer and said covering layer and in between said covering layer and said substrate layer.

10 (original). The component according to claim 1, wherein said assembly has a rectangular outline defined by said substrate layer and said covering layer.

11 (original). The component according to claim 1, wherein said mechanical connector is at least one connection selected from the group consisting of an ultrasound welded connection, a spot weld, a soldered joint, a screw connection, a rivet, and a bracket.

12 (currently amended). The component according to claim 1, wherein said mechanical connector is a reinforcing frame or ring disposed between said substrate layer and said covering layer and between said functional organic light-emitting layer and said sealing frame or sealing ring.

13 (canceled).

14 (currently amended). The component according to claim 1 ~~[[13]]~~, wherein said reinforcing strips are formed with interruptions.

15 (original). The component according to claim 12, wherein said reinforcing frame or ring is formed with interruptions.

16 (canceled).

17 (currently amended). An OLED display device, comprising:

a substrate layer and a covering layer;

an organic light-emitting layer between said substrate layer and said covering layer;

a sealing frame or sealing ring between said substrate layer and said covering layer, connected to said substrate layer and said covering layer by an integral joint, and defining a space encasing and protecting said organic light-emitting layer against hazardous external influences; and

a mechanical connector with adhesive characteristics matched to materials of said covering layer and of said substrate disposed between said substrate layer and said covering layer, for mechanically fixing said substrate layer and said covering layer to one another, said mechanical connector having connectors selected from the group consisting of reinforcing strips and points disposed between said substrate layer and said covering layer.

18 (original). The display device according to claim 17, wherein said mechanical connector is configured to reduce a risk of detachment of said substrate layer and said covering

layer from one another in an event of a deformation of the OLED display device.